

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

## PATRICK COUNTY WILDFIRE

### SITUATION REPORT # 3

1400 Hours April 17, 2006

*New Information in Bold Italics*

*The next Situation Report will be 18 April 2006 at 1500 hours.*

### SUMMARY

Patrick County and Virginia Department of Forestry resources are fighting a wildfire on Bull Mountain that began on 14 April and has burned over **4000 acres, destroyed 3 homes** and is threatening 70 homes. ***The fire is being managed utilizing a Unified Command at VDOT's field office on US 57 West of Elamsville.***

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition.

**State of Emergency:** On April 15, 2006, Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a state of emergency to exist for Patrick County to assist in responding to this wildfire. Governor Kaine directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to assist in Patrick County to alleviate adverse conditions created by the wildfire.

**Federal Declaration:** Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 3, advised that they received approval for a Fire Management Assistance Grant. Declaration number 2637.

**Protective Actions:** Local Emergency Declared: Patrick County declared a local emergency on April 15, 2006.

**Schools:** ***Patrick County Public Schools will be closed Tuesday because of the forest fire in Patrick County.***

### WEATHER

**Forecast:** **Patrick County:** ***NWS Blacksburg- SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH IN EFFECT UNTIL 5 PM EDT THIS AFTERNOON.*** Much cooler with highs in the lower 60s. South winds around 10 mph with gusts up to 20 mph. ***Tonight...*** Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers in the evening...Then partly cloudy after midnight. Areas of fog after midnight. Much cooler with lows in the lower 40s. Light and variable winds. Chance of rain 20 percent.

### OPERATIONS SECTION

**Local Liaison:** VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Six Coordinator is **now on scene**.

**Legislative Liaison:** ***Responded to inquiry from Congressman Boucher's office and distributing situation reports to legislators in affected localities.***

### EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

**ESF 4 – Firefighting:** Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

The VDOF has an Incident Management Team, **60** personnel, three bulldozers and two helicopters assisting with fire suppression. ***Only 10 to 15 percent contained. A fire on Bull Mountain destroyed at least three homes, forcing the evacuation of 40 families.*** VDOF advised they have 1 Federal Hot Shot team, (17 personnel), and 1 Type II team, (18 personnel), on scene assisting with fire suppression. Resource

Advisor from FEMA is on scene completing field work for the FEMA request. The Incident Management Team reports **225 to 250** firefighters from localities assisting with fire suppression. VDOF submitted FEMA Form 90-58, Request for Fire Suppression Assistance, on 15 April and that has been forwarded to FEMA Region 3. ***VDOF has set up headquarters at VDOT's field office on U.S. 57 west of Elamsville to coordinate firefighting activities. Va. Dept. of Fire Programs Division 6 Chief providing Mobile Incident Support. VDOF is working with VA Dept. of Conservation and recreation on utilizing cabins at Fairystone State park as shelters for VDOF personnel. The VDOF is also working three separate fires in Lee County which were initiated by lightning strikes. Each fire involves approximately 100 acres.***

**ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:**

Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)

Governor Kaine authorized mobilization of 46 National Guard soldiers to assist Patrick County and VDOF with fire suppression activities and evacuation. ***VA National Guard currently has 45 soldiers on State Active Duty. 2 teams with 40 personnel and 3 support personnel to provide fire support are on scene and 2 soldiers providing support at Fort Pickett Joint Operations Center.***

**INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH**

**ESF 1 – Transportation:**

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

VDOT is assisting with road closures as requested by the Incident Management Team and the VDOT Residency Shop in Stuart, Virginia is being utilized as the Incident Command Post.

**LOGISTICS SECTION**

**ESF 7 – Resource Support:**

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies. ***Request for additional communication support being coordinated by VEOC.***

**LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

Patrick County has evacuated **75** homes and has a shelter open at the Smith River Rescue Squad Building. Currently 2 personnel from the American Red Cross assisted by 5 personnel from the Rescue Squad are assisting 17 citizens at the shelter. ***Local and neighboring fire departments include 145 personnel; 1 volunteer firefighter injured with possible broken ankle on 15 April.*** Patrick County has utilized mutual aid to request firefighting assistance from neighboring Virginia and North Carolina localities. Patrick County is considering requesting a Type 5 and Type 6 truck from Roanoke County through Statewide Mutual Aid.

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